

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH and SANITARY
INSPECTOR OF THE URBAN
DISTRICT OF WHITWORTH
DURING 1947

WHITWORTH :

H. Howard, Printer and Stationer, 669 Market Street
1948

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THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN—COUNCILLOR J. H. NUTTALL

COUNCILLORS MRS. ISABELLA HEYS, J.P. (*ex-officio*)

J. BARKER

F. HOIT, J.P.

A. HARGREAVES

J. W. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health :

J. W. MCKINNEY, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. (*died September, 1947*).

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector :

F. COOKSON, M.S.I.A., CERT. MEAT AND FOODS

Clerk : JULIE NOLAN, D.P.H.H.

Clerk and Solicitor to the Council :

MR. H. HOYLE

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health 1947.

MRS. HEYS AND GENTLEMEN :

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Report for the year, 1947.

As of necessity, because of paper shortage, it is confined largely to Statistical Tables, which I trust will supply you with all the information you desire concerning the Public Health for the year.

National Health, at the present moment is a subject of wide importance, and will become more so as all services are co-ordinated.

Amongst items you will note in the Report are that Births exceed Deaths—and that there were more births than in the year 1946.

Notifiable Diseases—excluding Tuberculosis, of which there was a decrease—were more than for the preceding year, due largely to Measles, which however did not occur in anything like epidemic proportions.

The Immunisation against Diphtheria appears to be showing results e.g. during the year under review not a single notification of Diphtheria was received in regard to our child population.

I again wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued co-operation, and also to Mr. Cookson and Miss Nolan for their willing help.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

“ HEALTH DEPARTMENT ”

For the late JAMES W. McKINNEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Health Department,

Council Offices, Whitworth,

July, 1948

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	{	Total.	M.	F.	} Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident popula- tion : 19.9							
		Legitimate 136	59	77								
		Illegitimate 11	4	7								
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>						
		Total ... 147	63	84								
Still Births	...	...	...	7	4	3	Rate per 1000 Total (live and stillbirths)...	...	...	45		
Deaths	...	...	...	...	114	52	62	Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident popu- lation	...	...	...	15.4
Deaths from Puerperal causes—												
							Deaths	Death-rate per 1000 Total (live and still) births				
Puerperal sepsis							...	...	...	...	—	—
Other puerperal causes							...	...	...	...	—	—
Total							...	...	...	...	—	—

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :

Death-rate : 3 Males, 3 Females	... ..	6
Legitimate deaths	... ..	6
Illegitimate deaths	... ..	0
All infants per 1000 live births...	... ..	40
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	... ..	44
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	... ..	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	15
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

	Per 1000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Death under 1 year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth- rate	Crude Death- rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death- rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 total (live and still) Births	
Mean of 5 years							
1942-1946	16.8	14.4	0.30	1.73	1.66	1.58	72
1946	19.1	15.5	0.68	1.37	Nil	Nil	50
1947	19.9	15.4	0.40	2.03	Nil	Nil	40
Increase or Decrease in 1947 on 5 years average							
1942-46	+3.1	+1.0	+0.10	+0.30	—1.66	—1.58	—32
Previous Year	+0.8	—0.1	—0.28	+0.66	Nil	Nil	—10

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1947.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED													HOSPITAL	
	Total Cases at all Ages	AGE PERIODS—YEARS											Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of per- sons belonging to district.
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over		
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	1	...	...	2	...
Diphtheria, (including Membranous Croup) ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...)	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ... (
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Pneumococcal Meningitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	3
Malaria { Contracted in this Country ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Abroad ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g. :—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles, excluding German measles	64	3	4	8	5	15	27	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	5	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	86	6	5	10	6	16	29	4	2	3	2	0	3	1	12

CAUSES OF DEATH.

ALL CAUSES							M. 52	F. 62
Enteric fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Meningococcal meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	9
Rheumatic fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diabetes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
Heart disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	18
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Peptic ulcer ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Appendicitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Liver diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other digestive diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Nephritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Endocarditis and Premature Birth, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other diseases of pregnancy and parturition ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Suicide ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other deaths from violence ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other defined causes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	9
Ill-defined or not known ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
{ Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
{ Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
{ Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	63	84
{ Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	77
{ Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7
{ Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
{ Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
{ Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
{ Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

RESIDENT POPULATION ... 7372

INFANT MORTALITY.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes. { Certified	2	...	...	...	2	3	1	...	4	10
Causes. { Uncertified
{ Small-pox
{ Chicken-pox
{ Measles
{ Scarlet Fever
{ Diphtheria and Croup
{ Whooping Cough...
{ Diarrhoea
{ Enteritis
{ Tuberculous Meningitis...
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis...
{ Other Tuberculous Disease
{ Congenital Malformations	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
{ Premature Birth	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
{ Atrophy, Debility
Marasmus...	1	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis
Injury at Birth
Erysipelas
Syphilis
Rickets
Meningitis not Tuberculous	1	...	...	1
Convulsions	1	...	...	1
Gastritis	1	...	...	...	1
Laryngitis
Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	...	4	6
Suffocation...
Influenza
Endocarditis
Pemphigus...
Accident
Total.....	2	...	...	...	2	3	1	...	4	10

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1947.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 year .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 „ .....	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25 „ .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
25—35 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
35—45 „	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55 „ .....	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
55—65 „	1	...	...	...	1	..	...	...
65 and upwards.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	2	1	0	2	2	1	0	0
	3		2		3		0	
	5				3			
Total 1946 ...	5	0	1	4	5	1	0	1
	5		5		6		1	

The following is a list of the occupations, if any, followed by notified cases during the year 1947.

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Cotton Operatives	2	1
Clogger	1	—
None	—	1
	3	2

GENERAL NOTES

The **Birth Rate** is 19.9 as compared with 19.1 for the year 1946. The sex incidence is Males 63, Females 84.

The **Death Rate** is 15.4 as compared with 15.5 in the year 1946. The sex incidence is Males 52, Females 62.

Infantile Mortality. 6 Deaths occurred under one year of age, giving a rate of 40, as compared with 7 deaths in the year 1946, and a rate of 50.

The **Maternal Mortality Rate** is NIL.

The incidence of deaths arising from **Cancer** is 15 as compared with 10 for the previous year.

The children of the district are cared for at the Lancashire County Council School Clinic and come under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health, who also carries out the duties of School Medical Officer.

The Child Welfare Clinic is also under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. There is an average weekly attendance of 90 mothers and babies which is a very satisfactory feature and enables us to keep in touch with each child as it attains the age of one year, with a view to its being Immunised against Diphtheria.

School children attend for dental treatment also at the Lancashire County Council School Clinic. The service is much appreciated, as shown by the numbers who come in for treatment.

The general health and nutritional state of the population remains satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. The cases notified were of a spasmodic nature and of a mild character. There were no deaths in the 6 cases i.e. 1 Diphtheria and 5 Scarlet Fever.

Diphtheria Immunisation. Satisfactory progress has been maintained with regard to this simple protection against Diphtheria and the following figures give the actual number of children who had been Immunised up to the 31st December, 1947.

Number of children under 5 years of age	420
Percentage of child population under 5 years	61%
Number of children aged 5 years and over, but under 15 years of age	980
Percentage of child population between 5 and 15 years	98%

Measles and Whooping Cough. There were 69 cases, i.e., 64 Measles and 5 Whooping Cough. There were no deaths recorded.

Smallpox. Hospital accommodation is provided at the Bury and District Joint Hospital.

Other Infectious Diseases. Agreement with the County Borough of Rochdale for the treatment of these diseases at Marland Isolation Hospital.

Ambulance Facilities. Infectious cases are provided with an Ambulance by the Hospital. Non-infectious cases by arrangement with the County Borough of Rochdale.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examination. of specimens carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester and the Laboratory, Birch Hill, Rochdale.

Scabies. Arrangements are already in operation for the cleansing of Scabies, the treatment taking place at the Rochdale or Bacup cleansing centres. The incidence of this skin trouble is on the decline, due, I think chiefly to the advanced method of treatment now employed to combat this infection.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Whitworth.

MRS. HEYS AND GENTLEMEN :

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

68 Preliminary or informal notices and 6 Statutory Notices for the abatement of Nuisances and the remedy of Sanitary Defects, in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers.

It was not found necessary to take Legal Proceedings in any case during the year.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Number of premises visited.....	151
Number of Sanitary Defects found.....	180
Number of sanitary improvements effected	117
Food premises inspected	29
Factories inspected	2
Offensive trades.....	2

SANITARY DEFECTS FOUND

Houses :

Dampness of walls and ceilings	22
Defective Roofs.....	19
Defective Floor Boarding or Flagging	2
Defective Chimney Flues.....	1
Defective Wall and Ceiling Plaster.....	16
Defective Fire Ranges, Fixed Boilers, etc.	5
Defective Skirting Board.....	1
Defective Eavestroughing	4
Defective Slop-stone Waste-pipes	3
Defective Slop-stones	2
Defective Window Frame or Sash Cords	6
Filthy Rooms and Bedding.....	1
Choked Water Closet or branch drainage	9
Insanitary Closet accommodation	2
Insufficient Sanitary accommodation	2
Choked or defective House Drainage.....	9

Defective Main Drainage	2
Defective Sanitary accommodation buildings ...	9
Defective Sanitary accommodation fittings	11
Burst water service pipes.....	5
Water Supply unprotected from contamination	1
Defective Rain Water Pipes	4
Keeping of Fowls, Animals, etc.....	1
Accumulations of Refuse	1
Insufficient Water supply	32
Flooded Cellars	3
Defective external House wall	2
Defective or dangerous yard wall	3
Defective landing to house	1
Defective back yard surface	1

As mentioned in the Report of last year many houses are still badly in need of large-scale repairs. This is of course mainly due to the several restrictions appertaining, but there are a number of owners taking advantage of these restrictions and carrying out as little work as possible.

As stated previously there are approximately 750 houses of the back-to-back type and 170 houses of the back-to-earth type with a cavity at the rear of little consequence. In both of these types the majority are so built as to be incapable of re-conditioning and bringing them to a standard comparable with modern requirements.

These houses present difficult problems as only very necessary repairs can be asked for. It will therefore be seen that this class of property is depreciating very much as time goes by.

From this it will be gathered that a fairly large number of houses will be required for re-housing as soon as conditions permit of dealing with the unfit house.

Overcrowding is gradually increasing and many difficulties are experienced in dealing with same. Any attempt to alleviate is negatived by lack of housing accommodation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was no epidemic during the year, the cases occurring spasmodically. 39 houses were fumigated for Tuberculosis and other diseases.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY.

The inspection of all premises used for the preparation and sale of foodstuffs has received attention, and it is satisfactory to note that no action was necessary.

Slaughter-houses.

As reported previously the slaughtering of animals for human food is still restricted in the seven licensed slaughter-houses under the Regional Slaughter Scheme.

General opinion is that slaughtering in this type of slaughter-house will not be re-commenced, but that establishments large enough to deal with all cattle for each Area will be advocated.

During the year 22 pigs were slaughtered for private consumption, under the Ministry of Food Licence.

Food.

The following foodstuffs have been surrendered from food shops and stores, as unfit for human consumption.

Lard.....	12 lbs.
Beef.....	17 lbs.
Canned steak, etc.....	31 tins.
Canned peas	13 tins.
Bacon	31 lbs.
Flour	34 lbs.
Butter	74 lbs.
Margarine	16 lbs.
Canned potatoes	60 lbs.
Fish.....	5 stone.
Eggs.....	16 dozen.

Bakehouses.

The number of premises being used as bakehouses is 19 and inspections have been carried out from time to time. A satisfactory standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The provision of the above Act, so far as they relate to the sampling of food for nature, substance and quality are administered by the Lancashire County Council in co-operation with the Local Authority.

12 Samples of Milk were obtained and various other sundry commodities, all of which were found to be genuine.

Milkshops.

The number of shops retailing bottled milk is 16. There are no shops selling unbottled milk.

Ice Cream.

9 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and 4 were reported unsatisfactory in view of the presence

of *Bacillus Coli*. In one instance the cream making machinery was found to be defective and in another case the dry powder was at fault.

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION.

Due to restrictions little change has taken place in regard to alterations or improvements to farm buildings.

Throughout the district there are 35 dairy farms and 41 cowkeepers (including dairy farms) representing approximately 450 head of cattle.

Tuberculosis.

41 samples of Milk, as against 47 in 1946, have been obtained from farmers during the course of delivery and submitted for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. Two of the samples were found to contain Tubercle Bacilli, and were referred to the Lancashire County Council. The affected cattle were traced and slaughtered.

Bacteriological.

42 samples of milk as against 46 in 1946, obtained in the course of delivery, were submitted for Bacterial Count and *Bacillus Coli* examination. 31 of these samples complied with the standard required for Accredited Milk. Suggestions for improvement were put forward to the farmers producing the unsatisfactory samples. The farms producing unsatisfactory milk had this fact made known to them by letter, calling for an immediate improvement. However, upon a repeat sample being taken the said farms were found to be producing a satisfactory milk.

The bulk method of distribution, *e.g.*, the delivery can method, has, during the past few years, on account of the shortage of labour, bottles, etc., increased. Possibly when conditions improve there will be a complete general adoption of the container principle, which is altogether more hygienic.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are two in the Area, *i.e.*, one Tripe Boiling and one Hide Curing. Visits have been made to the Tripe Boiling premises, the trade being carried on in a satisfactory manner.

RODENT CONTROL

With the co-operation of the Surveyor the Main Sewers and Main Branch Drains were treated for the infestation of Rats. The operation was carried out twice during the year, and judging from the number of baits laid and taken the treatment was a success.

A part time man is at present employed for industrial premises and dwelling houses.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The sanitary accommodation of the area is as follows :—

Fresh Water Closets	1809
Waste Water Closets.....	164
Pail Closets.....	59
No. of houses on the Water Carriage system.....	2533

The Pail Closets existing are situated at the following premises :—

Dwelling-houses.....	35
Mills and Workshops.....	6
Farms	7
Churches, etc	11

With very few exceptions they cannot be converted to the fresh water carriage system, in view of the fact that they are situated in outlying parts where there is no sewer available.

With regard to the Waste Water Closets, in many instances they are unsatisfactory, and although the Council grant a contribution towards the cost of conversion to the fresh water carriage system the progress is slow. There is no authority for compulsory conversion, particularly now in view of the shortage of materials.

WATER SUPPLY

The Public Water Supply is good and abundant. Two samples from a private supply were submitted for bacteriological examination, one of which was found to be unsatisfactory. This supply was discontinued.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Domestic refuse is collected from all dwelling-houses, the collection being carried out by motor waggon. Due to difficulties, such as labour shortage and waggon breakdowns, the weekly collections could not be maintained, but efforts were made to avoid any cause for complaint.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on land at Landgate and Calf Hey. The positions are suitable, being situated a good distance from dwelling houses, yet at the same time easy of access.

No trouble has been experienced due to fire or the infestation of rats, crickets, etc.

SALVAGE

The following table shows the weights of materials recovered during the twelve months under review. The collections show a decrease upon last year, but in view of the fact that the waggon was constantly under repair I consider the results satisfactory. The main purpose—ash collection and disposal had to be carried out.

	Tons	Cwts.
Waste Paper	29	0
Scrap Iron	4	15
Non-ferrous Metals	0	10
Textiles (Rags, String, etc.).....	1	10
Kitchen Waste	43	7

The collection of Salvage is still of national importance, but during the past year much waste paper has found its way into the ordinary ash bin. If householders would keep paper separate for collection the results could be nearly doubled.

The following gives the details and cost of collection and disposal :—

Loads removed.....	990
Cost per load.....	£1 16s. 4d.
Refuse in tons (estimated)	2474
Cost per ton.....	14/6d.
Number of houses and premises	2932
Cost per house per annum	12/3d.
Average length of haul... 1 mile and 1½ miles	

SEWAGE WORKS

The method of treatment is by precipitation tanks continuous filters and humus tanks. Three samples of effluent were taken by the Rivers Inspector, and in each instance was classed as “satisfactory.” The results are based on the oxidizable organic matter, the test being the percentage of oxygen absorbed in four hours.

Difficulties have been experienced in obtaining materials such as Hessian and in consequence the pressing of sludge was interfered with.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I desire to acknowledge the courtesy and consideration extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and also tender my sincere thanks to the Medical Officer of Health and Miss Nolan for their assistance rendered in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Your obedient servant

*Health Department,
Council Offices,
Whitworth.
July, 1948.*

FRED COOKSON, C.R.S.I.,
*Sanitary Inspector.
Meat and Foods Inspector.*

